

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled)

Claim 3 (Currently amended): The internally finned carbine handguard assembly of claim
| [[2]]13 wherein said non metallic material is further defined as being plastic.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The internally finned carbine handguard assembly of claim
3 wherein said non metallic material is further defined as being a glass fiber reinforced
polyamide.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The internally finned carbine handguard assembly of claim
| [[2]]13 wherein the entirety of said assembly is made from a non metallic material.

Claims 7-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently amended): The internally finned carbine handguard assembly of claim
| [[8]]13 wherein said concave free end edges of said fin portions terminate at their opposite ends
in straight edges extending to said outer wall.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The internally finned carbine handguard assembly of claim 9 wherein said outer wall between said fin portions and in said channel includes a plurality of openings for air circulation.

Claim 11 (Currently amended): The internally finned carbine handguard of claim ~~[[1]]~~13 wherein each of said half sections are either semi cylindrical or oval.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A finned carbine handguard assembly comprising:
a pair of half sections adapted to be mounted on and around a gun barrel, and each of said half sections including an outer wall including inner and outer surfaces and having on the inner surface along the substantial length of the outer wall spaced apart fins extending radially inwardly toward the axial center of said half sections for conducting heat away from ~~[[a]]~~said gun barrel,
said fins being comprised of a non metallic material capable of absorbing heat and slowly conducting said heat radially outwardly away from said gun barrel,
each of the fins of one of said half sections including two coplanar fin portions spaced apart to form a longitudinally extending channel therebetween adapted for a gas tube,
said fin portions having inner free end edges concave in shape for embracing a gun barrel in spaced relationship thereto,
said concave free end edges of said fin portions terminating at their opposite ends in straight edges extending to said outer wall, and
said outer wall between said fin portions and in said channel including a plurality of openings for air circulation.

Claim 13 (New): An internally finned carbine handguard assembly comprising:
a pair of half sections adapted to be mounted on and around a gun barrel, and each of said half sections including an outer wall including inner and outer surfaces and having on the inner surface along the substantial length of the outer wall closely spaced apart fins extending radially inwardly toward the axial center of said half sections, the opposite sides of each of said fins providing substantial surface area for absorbing heat from said gun barrel and conducting the heat away from the gun barrel;
said fins being comprised of a non metallic material capable of absorbing heat and slowly conducting said heat radially outwardly away from said gun barrel;
each of the fins of one of said half sections including two coplanar fin portions spaced apart to form a longitudinally extending channel therebetween; and
said fin portions having inner free end edges concave in shape for embracing said gun barrel in closely spaced relationship thereto.